



Aruba hosts the 8th Annual Dutch Caribbean Swimming Championships

On Friday evening, April 27, Ronald van den Berg, president of the Aruba Swimming Federation welcomed 321 athletes representing eleven swim clubs from eight countries for the first Dutch Caribbean Swimming Championships to be held in Aruba.

This is the eighth such event, which in past years included the islands of the Netherlands Antilles, Suriname and Aruba, but this year also welcomes swimmers from Trinidad-Tobago, Barbados and the U.S.A.

The inaugural ceremonies introduced the swim clubs and eighteen referees from the various nations, a gathering that completely encircled the Roly Bisslick Olympic Pool in Saveneta. The first night of competitions entailed twenty-nine races for all ages, and Aruba had a strong showing with Valerie Eman of the Stingray Swimming Club taking first place in the first race, the 800 Meter Freestyle for girls eleven and older. Valerie also set a new speed record by coming in at 9:32:81. Valerie also came in second on the 100 meter butterfly.

Aruban Olympic qualifier Mickey van der Vaart took first place in the 1500 Meter Freestyle for boys 11 and up and second place behind teammate Jan Roodzant in the 200 Meter Freestyle for boys 15 and over. Jan also took first place in the 100 Meter Butterfly for boys 15 and over and the 50 Meter Breaststroke. Mickey also took third place in the 100 Meter Butterfly for boys 15 and older.

Other Stingray Swim Club members performing well on the first day of competitions were Jordy Groters, taking first place in the 50 Meter Breaststroke for boys ages 9-10, Adrienne Fraser with second place in the 50 Meter Breaststroke for girls 15 and over, and Emy Da Silva and Sue-Gin Arends who took first and second place in the 100 Meter Backstroke for girls ages 9-10, respectively. Ginayala Arends of Stingray took the gold medal in 100 Meter Freestyle for girls 8 and under, with Andra van den Berg taking third place. In the boys' 8 and under 100 Meter Freestyle Patrick Groters took second place, with Tyreke Wernet of the Aruba Dolphins in third. In the 100 Meter Freestyle for girls 9-10 Emy Da Silva and Sue-Gin Arends came in second and third behind teammate Daniella van den Berg for a clean sweep by the Stingrays team of the top three spots.

Additionally performing well for their host island of Aruba were members of the Aruba Dolphins, with Renze Postma taking second place in 100 Meter Freestyle for boys ages 9-10 and third place in the 100 Meter Backstroke. Other Dolphins bringing home medals are Raymond Vrolijk in third place in the 100 Meter Butterfly for boys 15 and over, Marellys Maduro second place in the 100 Meter Butterfly for girls 13-14 and Francisco Goedgedrag in the 50 Meter Breaststroke for boys 15 and over.

Through April 30, the swimmers will compete morning and evening in 128 events. Morning sessions are preliminaries, with the finals held from 6:00 to 9:00 PM every night. Entrance free is 3 Aruban florins for spectators. The results of each day will be posted online at www.arubadolphins.com to follow the swimming actions and the status of your favorite athletes.